

JOB

Chapter-By-Chapter Through The Greatest Poem in Literature

Session 22 | Job 26:5-14

Job's Response to Bildad | Job 26:1-27:10

- Note: Some believe that Job speaks in vv. 1-4, and that vv. 5-19 are the continued words of Bildad, followed by Job continuing in 27:1-10. We will assume that 26:1-27:10 are all the words of Job.
- Verses 26:1-4 – *included on session 21*

Job Honor's God's Power | Job 26:5-14

- Verse 5 -
 - Dead things are, in Hebrew, רִפְּוּיִם [rephaim].
 - Bullinger (in a note on Is. 26:14) says, "This is a proper name, and should not be translated."¹
 - See Isaiah 17:5 for an example of usage as a proper name.
 - When we take this approach, there is a group of beings called Rephaim who are **dead**, but shall have no resurrection (see Is. 26:13-14). See Psalm 88:10, which speaks of the same group.
 - So who are the Rephaim?
 - The *Anakim* are named after *Anak* and are part of the Nephilim.
 - The Rephaim are named after *Rapha* and are equally part of the Nephilim (see Gen 15:20).
 - See Deuteronomy 2:11, where *rephaim* is translated **giants, as the Anakims**. (Also Dt. 2:20, 21, and especially 3:11, 13, as well as Josh. 12:4, 13:12, 15:8, 17:5, 18:16).
 - Note from Bullinger (Appendix 25, The Companion Bible (pg. 962)), "As *Rephaim* they were well known, and are often mentioned: but, unfortunately, instead of this, their proper name, being preserved, it is variously translated as "dead," "deceased", or "giants". These *Rephaim* are to have no resurrection. This fact is stated in Isa. 26:14 (where the proper name is rendered "deceased," and v. 19, where it is rendered "the dead")."²
 - If this is correct, then the YLT translation of "The Rephaim are formed, Beneath the waters, also their inhabitants" would be correct.
 - **Formed** is a word that could mean *tremble* or *wait*.
 - This is the only time the word is used in this form in the Hebrew Scriptures, so translation is difficult.
 - If we use *wait* as the translation, then Job is making reference to **the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient...in the days of Noah**, mentioned in 1 Peter 3:19-20. And, once again, the timing of these events makes sense in the days of the tribulation, thus giving added confirmation that Job is a type of Israel during the tribulation.

1 Ethelbert W. Bullinger, The Companion Bible: Being the Authorized Version of 1611 with the Structures and Notes, Critical, Explanatory and Suggestive and with 198 Appendixes, vol. 2 (Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, 2018), 28.

²Ibid., pg. 962.

- Verse 6 –
 - **Hell** is *sheol*, the place of the dead. It could be translated as *The place of the dead is naked before him...* That is, there is no place to hide from God, as in Psalm 139:8.
 - **Destruction** is *Abaddon* in Hebrew. Some translations, such as NASB, do not translate the word, making it a place equivalent to Hell.
 - By having **no covering**, it is considered to be *unveiled* and open to God's wrath.
- Verse 7 –
 - Comparing Psalm 75:6 and Isaiah 14:13-14, there is a *hint* that **north** refers to the domain of God, and thus this verse speaks of creation of earth taking place from God's throne in Heaven.
- Verses 8-13 - God's Power Described
 - Job speaks of God's power in nature, working mysteriously in the background, unseen.
 - Verse 13 celebrates the fact that **By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens** (that is, made the heavens beautiful).
 - Verse 13 also speaks of the **crooked serpent** which **His hand hath formed**.
 - Almost certainly this **serpent** is Satan.
 - God certainly did create *Lucifer*, so even in its present form this is a correct statement.
 - However, the word **hath formed** is the same as in the same as in verse 5, which is *tremble or wait*.
 - The verb is in the perfect form, thus *the crooked serpent God has stopped* could be in order.
 - The word **crooked** can be translated *fleeing*, giving additional credence to God *stopping the fleeing serpent*.
 - Note: the **crooked serpent** could also be a reference to the constellation *Serpens*, a decan of Scorpio (which is *fleeing* for the crown (Borealis) and being stopped by the *wrestler*, Ophiucus, who has his foot firmly on the head of Scorpio!)
- Verse 14 –
 - All of this, Job says, are just **parts of his ways** (i.e.: not the whole thing).
 - Job laments of **how little a portion is heard of him**, either a statement lamenting how little people *recognize* His power or how little of His power God has *revealed*.
 - The Hebrew for **little portion** is the word *whisper*, and Darby translates, "what a whisper of a word do we hear of him!"
 - If we barely hear a *whisper*, then how would we ever handle **the thunder of his power?**